

DECISION SUMMARY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Based on site history and results of environmental investigations, the Air Force proposes no further action at Site 34 at Beale Air Force Base (AFB), California. This decision document presents the Site 34 characterization data to support the no-further-action decision.

In addition to presenting results of previous investigations (Section 1.0), this document presents the results of a recent remedial investigation (RI) at Site 34 (Section 2.0) and a human health and ecological risk assessment (Section 3.0).

1.1 Site Name, Location, and Description

Site 34 (former location of an antenna array) is located in the southwestern portion of Beale AFB, off Gavin Mandery Drive, east of the former Camp Beale prisoner of war camp (see Figure 1-1). Figure 1-2 shows the details of this site. The site presently comprises Building 250, a small storage shed (former standby generator room), a gravel parking lot, a skeet range, and a handgun range. Building 250 is connected to the Base's sanitary sewer system via an 8-inch lateral that extends northeast from the site to a main pipeline. The driveway leading to Site 34 extends to a gravel parking area located in the western portion of the site.

1.1.1 Adjacent Land Uses

The primary land use surrounding Beale AFB is agricultural; 85% of the surrounding land is designated as an Exclusive Agricultural Zone. Land use at Site 34 is designated for industrial use in accordance with the *Beale AFB General Plan* (Higginbotham/Briggs, 1998).

1.1.2 Nearby Population

Beale AFB is located in a sparsely populated area approximately 10 miles east of Marysville, California, and 45 miles north of Sacramento, California. The employees, people residing in military housing, and people residing in the housing east of Beale AFB are the nearest populations. Residential areas are approximately 4 miles from Site 34.

1.1.3 Surface and Groundwater Resources

Surface water that does not infiltrate unpaved areas flows to Hutchinson Creek, located north and east of Site 34. Water that enters Hutchinson Creek flows toward the Feather River. No soil borings or groundwater monitoring wells are located within the vicinity of Site 34 to indicate groundwater depth. However, at piezometer BWL008PZ, approximately 1,000 feet southwest of Site 34, groundwater depth is 50 to 70 feet below ground surface (bgs), and direction of flow is generally southwest (CH2M HILL, 2002). The depth to groundwater and the direction of flow beneath Site 34 is probably similar to that in the area of BWL008PZ. The groundwater flow direction is based on groundwater elevation contours in the area of Site 34 and BWL008PZ (CH2M HILL, 2002).

1.1.4 Surface and Subsurface Features

The site presently comprises Building 250, a small storage shed (former standby generator room), a gravel parking lot, a skeet range, and a handgun range. Site 34 is topographically higher than its surroundings. The ground surface in the area is approximately 196 feet above mean sea level (msl) (Radian International, 1999).

The site is surrounded by open grassland with sparse woodland oak trees.

1.2 Site History and Enforcement Activities

1.2.1 Site History and Operations

Site 34 is currently known as the Rod and Gun Club, where military personnel participate in skeet and handgun firing practice. Building 250 is currently used as a service and eating area. Prior to inception of the Rod and Gun Club in 1978, the site had an array of six to eight poles used in radio communications. All antennas, wooden posts, and aboveground wiring were removed prior to the relocation of the Rod and Gun Club in 1978. Interviews with base personnel and trenching containing wires indicate that these poles were constructed around Building 250. However, the precise locations of the poles are not known (Radian International, 1999). At that time, Building 250 may have been used as the main building for Titan I missile command operations. Personnel interviews indicate the building contained a trench in the center of the building that paralleled the building's long axis. The trench contained wires probably connecting to the antenna array. The former antenna array was constructed in 1961 and used from approximately 1965 to 1973 (Radian International, 1999); the array was secured during that time. After cessation of Titan I missile operations, the antenna array was used for coordination and tracking of B-52 bombing practice. Between 1973 and 1978, the area remained secured; however, it was unused. Civilian and non-secured military personnel could not enter the premises until 1978.

Underground Storage Tank (UST) #14-090 at Site 34 was removed and the contaminated soil excavated in 1995. The UST was formally closed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) in 1998. A preliminary assessment of Site 34 was performed after the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) targeted the former antenna array as Area of Concern (AOC) 67 (Radian International, 1999).

A summary of previous investigations is provided in Table 1-1. Section 2.0 presents results of an RI conducted at Site 34 in 2002.

1.2.2 History of Releases

Site 34 may have soil contamination resulting from maintenance of electrical equipment and use of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-filled transformers associated with the former antenna array from 1961 through 1973. Additionally, the former antenna array contained six to eight wooden posts that may have been treated with chemicals (creosote containing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and/or copper sulfate or other metal-blasting preservative). However, the exact locations of these poles could not be determined.

1.2.3 Enforcement Activities

No enforcement activities have been associated with Site 34.